

**GOVERNOR DOYLE'S TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH  
FEBRUARY 18, 2005**

**Recommendations on Education**

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Physician and Dental Loan Assistance Program and Health Care Provider Loan Assistance Program

**The Task Force recommends:**

- That the Rural Health Development Council change the criteria to tie loan forgiveness to the number of Medicaid patients served and remove the existing tie to HPSA area on loans that use exclusive state funding. (Federal matching funds require that assistance be tied to serving in a shortage area, serving Medicare clients, and using a sliding fee scale.)
- That the Department of Health and Family Services work with the Rural Health Development Council to consider removing the language on shortage area and sliding fee scale from the loan forgiveness criteria.

**Priority:** Recommend the continuation of the current funding level or greater for the State Physician and Dentist Loan Assistance program and the Health Care Provider Loan Assistance program.\*

Marquette University School of Dentistry

**Priority:** Recommend that the state increase the annual funding from the Higher Educational Aids Board to support annual capitation payments for 50 Wisconsin students at the Marquette University School of Dentistry. Funding would begin for the Fall 2006 semester. Year 1 cost would be an additional \$87,530.\*

**Priority:** Recommend that the state increase the tuition subsidy for Wisconsin residents who attend Marquette University School of Dentistry from \$8,753 to \$11,670 per year at an additional cost of \$466,800 annually.\*

## Public Health Education and Other Education Items

### **The Task Force recommends:**

- That the Governor ask the Department of Public Instruction to include a question on oral health on the required state exams.
- That the Governor send a letter to the Wisconsin Dental Association encouraging them to provide pediatric dental education at their annual session.

## **Recommendations on Dental Hygiene Practice**

### **The Task Force recommends:**

- That legislation be drafted to allow dental hygienists to practice independently of dentists operating under their current scope of practice. Monica Hebl asked to be recorded as voting no.
- That staff send an independent message to the Governor alerting him of this recommendation so that he can move ahead on drafting and developing support for this measure. Monica Hebl asked to be recorded as voting no.

## **Recommendations on Funding**

**Priority:** The Task Force supports Two Cents for Tooth Sense with the revenues going to oral health. The Task Force will re-visit this issue when they review the list of funding priorities.

*\* The Task Force also developed a list of funding priorities that they will address as a group upon completion of their work on recommendations.*